

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1.-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Amended) A method of facilitating ordering an item using an interactive television system including at least one client and at least one server, the method comprising:
using the server to provide to the client data, some of which represents video data and some of which represents a computing application comprising executable code;
at the client, causing the video to be displayed, and executing the computing application to cause display of interactive information;
using one or more of the displayed video and the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television viewer;
enabling the viewer to select the item by interacting with the client; and
in response to the viewer interaction, causing an order for the item to be placed.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein the viewer interaction causes display of instructions to solicit information necessary to place the order.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein the information is solicited using one or more of an on-screen display and voice instructions.

71. The method of claim 68, wherein the viewer interaction is by way of a single command.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein the single command is by one of the group of:
selecting of a single button; and
pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.

73. The method of claim 68, wherein causing the order to be placed is achieved by using:
information related to the item and viewer related personal information.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the viewer's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein the personal information is stored in memory at the client.

76. The method of claim 74, wherein the system further includes a local computer and associated storage and wherein the method further comprises:
using the client to retrieve information from one or more of the local computer and the associated storage.

77. The method of claim 76, wherein the method further comprises:
controlling the client by means of the local computer.

78. The method of claim 76, wherein the local computer is part of a local area network.

79. The method of claim 68, wherein the system further includes a central processing facility in communication with the server and wherein the method comprises:
sending information used in processing the order from the client to the central processing facility.

80. The method of claim 79, further comprising:
communicating information between the client and the server via the central processing facility.

81. The method of claim 79, wherein a telephone system acts as the central processing facility.

82. The method of claim 68, further comprising:

sending an order confirmation to the user to confirm the order.

83. The method of claim 68, wherein the server provides data in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the computing application.

84. The method of claim 83, wherein the computing application is repetitively transmitted during times that the video is transmitted.

85. The method of claim 83, wherein the client includes a client computer and an auxiliary processor, the method comprising:

using the auxiliary data processor to process data representing the video, and

using the client computer to execute the computing application.

86. The method of claim 85, wherein the client computer and the auxiliary data processor are contained in a set top box.

87. (Amended) A method of facilitating ordering an item using an interactive television system, the method comprising:

receiving data, some of which represents video and some of which represents a computing application comprising executable code;

causing the video to be displayed;

executing the computing application to cause display of interactive information;

using one or more of the displayed video and the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user;

enabling the user to select the item by way of an interaction; and

in response to the interaction, causing an order for the item to be placed.

88. The method of claim 87, wherein the interaction causes display of instructions to solicit information necessary to place the order.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein the information is solicited using one or more of an on-screen display and voice instructions.

90. The method of claim 87, wherein the interaction is by way of a single command.

91. The method of claim 90, wherein the single command is by one of the group of:
selecting of a single button; and
pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.

92. The method of claim 87, wherein causing the order to be placed is achieved by using:
information related to the item and user related personal information.

93. The method of claim 92, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

94. The method of claim 93, wherein the personal information is stored in local memory.

95. The method of claim 87, further comprising:
communicating information via a central processing facility.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein a telephone system acts as the central processing facility.

97. The method of claim 87, further comprising receiving an order confirmation to the user to confirm the order.

98. The method of claim 87, wherein the data comprises a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the computing application.

99. The method of claim 87, wherein a client includes a client computer and an auxiliary processor, the method comprising:

_____ using the auxiliary data processor to process data representing the video, and
_____ using the client computer to execute the computing application.

100. The method of claim 99, wherein the client computer and the auxiliary data processor are contained in a set top box.

101. (Amended) A method of facilitating ordering an item using an interactive television system, the method comprising:

_____ providing to the client data, some of which represents video to be displayed and some of which represents a computing application comprising executable code to be executed to display interactive information, the client to use one or more of the displayed video and the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user and to enable the user to select the item by interacting with the client; and
_____ in response to the interaction, receiving an order for the item.

102. The method of claim 101, wherein the received order includes:

_____ information related to the item and user related personal information.

103. The method of claim 102, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

104. The method of claim 101, including providing the data in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the computing application.

105. The method of claim 101, wherein the computing application is repetitively transmitted during times that the video is transmitted.

106. (Amended) An interactive television system comprising:

a server configured to provide data to a client in communication with the server, the data comprising video data and a computing application comprising executable code;

the client configured to:

cause the video to be displayed;

execute the computing application to cause display of interactive information;

use one or more of the displayed video and the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user;

enable the television user to select the item by interacting with the client; and

in response to the interaction, cause an order for the item to be placed.

107. The system of claim 106, wherein the user interaction causes display of instructions to solicit information necessary to cause the order to be placed.

108. The system of claim 107, wherein the information is solicited using one or more of an on-screen display and voice instructions.

109. The system of claim 106, wherein the interaction is by way of a single command.

110. (Amended) The system of claim 109, wherein the single command is selected from the group consisting of:

selecting of a single button; and

- pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.
111. The system of claim 106, wherein causing the order to be placed is achieved by using:
information related to the item and user related personal information.
112. The system of claim 111, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the
group consisting of the user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.
113. The system of claim 111, wherein the personal information is stored in memory at the
client.
114. (Amended) The system of claim 111, wherein the system further includes a local
computer and associated storage in communication with the client, and wherein the client is
further configured to retrieve information from one or more of the local computer and the
associated storage.
115. (Amended) The system of claim 106, wherein the client is further configured to be
controlled by means of the local computer.
116. (Amended) The system of claim 115, further comprising a local area network, and
wherein the local computer is part of the local area network.
117. (Amended) The system of claim 106, wherein the system further comprises a central
processing facility in communication with the server and wherein the client is further configured
to send information used in processing the order to the central processing facility.
118. (Amended) The system of claim 117, wherein the client is configured to communicate
with the server via the central processing facility.

119. (Amended) The system of claim 118, wherein the central processing facility comprises a telephone system .

120. (Amended) The system of claim 106, wherein the server is configured to send an order confirmation to the user to confirm the order.

121. (Amended) The system of claim 106, wherein the server is configured to provide data in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain video data, and others of which contain the computing application.

122. The system of claim 106, wherein the computing application is repetitively transmitted during times that the video is transmitted.

123. (Amended) The system of claim 106, wherein the client further comprises a client computer and an auxiliary processor, and:

the auxiliary data processor is configured to process data representing the video, and

the client computer is configured to execute the computing application.

124. (Amended) The system of claim 123, wherein the client computer and the auxiliary data processor are within a set top box.

125. (Amended) An interactive television system to enable a television user to order an item, the system comprising:

a receiver configured to receive data, the data comprising video and a computing application comprising executable code; and

a processing unit configured to:

execute the computing application to cause display of interactive information;

use the interactive information to show or describe an item to the television user;

enable the television user to select the item by way of an interaction; and

in response to the interaction, cause an order for the item to be placed.

126. The system of claim 125, wherein the interaction causes the processing unit to display instructions to solicit information necessary to cause the order to be placed.

127. The system of claim 126, wherein the information is solicited using one or more of an on-screen display and voice instructions.

128. The system of claim 125, wherein the interaction is by way of a single command.

129. (Amended) The system of claim 128, wherein the single command is selected from the group consisting of:

_____ selecting of a single button; and
_____ pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.

130. (Amended) The system of claim 125, wherein the processing unit is configured to cause the order to be placed using:

_____ information related to the item and user related personal information.

131. The system of claim 130, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

132. (Amended) The system of claim 130, further comprising a local memory to store the personal information memory.

133. (Amended) The system of claim 125, further comprising a central processing facility to communicate information.

134. (Amended) The system of claim 133, the central processing system comprises a telephone system.

135. (Amended) The system of claim 125, further comprising a further receiver configured to receive an order confirmation to confirm the order.

136. (Amended) The system of claim 125, wherein the data comprises a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain video data, and others of which contain the computing application, the system including a first extractor configured to extract the video and a second extractor configured to extract the computing application from the series of data packets.

137. (Amended) The system of claim 125, including:
an auxiliary data processor configured to process the video, and
a client computer configured to execute the computing application, the unit being associated with the client computer.

138. The system of claim 137, wherein the client computer and the auxiliary data processor comprise a set top box.

139. (Amended) An interactive television system to order an item, the system comprising:
a server configured to provide data, the data comprising video to be displayed and a computing application comprising executable code to be executed to display interactive information, to a client, the client configured to use one or more of the displayed video and the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user and to enable the television user to select the item by interacting with the client; and
a receiver configured to receive an order for the item in response to the television user interacting with the client.

140. The system of claim 139, wherein the received order includes:
information related to the item and user related personal information.

141. The system of claim 140, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the television user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

142. (Amended) The system of claim 139, wherein the server is configured to provide the data in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the computing application.

143. (Amended) The system of claim 139, wherein the server is configured to repetitively transmit at least a portion of the computing application during times that the video is transmitted.

Claims 144.-245. (Cancelled)

246. (Amended) A machine-readable medium embodying a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations that facilitate a user ordering an item using an interactive television system, the operations comprising:

_____ receiving data, some of which represents video and some of which represents a computing application comprising executable code;

_____ causing the video to be displayed;

_____ executing the computing application to cause display of interactive information;

_____ using one or more of the displayed video and the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user;

_____ enabling the user to select the item by way of an interaction; and

_____ in response to the interaction, causing an order for the item to be placed.

247. A machine-readable medium embodying a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations that facilitate a user ordering an item using an interactive television system by:

_____ providing data, some of which represents video to be displayed and some of which represents a computing application comprising executable code to be executed to display

interactive information, to the client, the client to use one or more of the displayed video and the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user and to enable the user to select the item by interacting with the client; and

in response to the interaction, receiving an order for the item.

248. (Amended) A method of facilitating ordering an item using an interactive television system including at least one client and at least one server, the method comprising:
using the server to provide, to the client, data for use by a computing application comprising executable code;

at the client, executing the computing application to cause display of interactive information;

using the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television viewer;

enabling the viewer to select the item by interacting with the client; and

in response to the viewer interaction, causing an order relating to the item to be placed.

249. The method of claim 248, wherein the viewer interaction is by way of a single command.

250. (Amended) The method of claim 249, wherein the single command is by one of a group of:

selecting of a single button; and

pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.

251. The method of claim 248, wherein causing the order to be placed is achieved by using:
information related to the item and viewer related personal information.

252. The method of claim 251, wherein the personal information is stored in memory at the client.

253. (Amended) A method of facilitating ordering an item using an interactive television system, the method comprising:

receiving data to be used by a computing application comprising executable code;
executing the computing application comprising executable code to cause display of
interactive information;
using the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user;
enabling the user to select the item by way of an interaction; and
in response to the interaction, causing an order relating to the item to be placed.

254. (Amended) A method of facilitating ordering an item using an interactive television system, the method comprising:

providing data to be used by a computing application comprising executable code to a
client to cause display of interactive information, the client to use the interactive information to
show or describe an item to a television user and to enable the user to select the item by
interacting with the client; and
in response to the interaction, receiving an order for the item.

255. (Amended) An interactive television system comprising:

a server configured to provide data to clients, to be used by a computing application
comprising executable code, to a client; and
a client configured to:
execute the computing application comprising executable code to cause display of
interactive information,
use the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user,
enable the television user to select the item by interacting with the client, and
in response to the interaction, cause an order for the item to be placed.

256. (Amended) An interactive television system to order an item, the system comprising:

a receiver configured to receive data to be used by a computing application comprising
executable code; and
a processing unit configured to:

execute the computing application comprising executable code to cause display of interactive information,

use the interactive information to perform at least one of showing an item to a television user and describing an item to a television user,

enable the user to select the item by way of an interaction, and

in response to the interaction, cause an order for the item to be placed.

257. (Amended) An interactive television system to order an item, the system comprising:
a server configured to provide data, to be used by a computing application comprising executable code to display interactive information, to a client, the client to use the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user and to enable the television user to select the item by interacting with the client; and
a receiver configured to receive an order for the item, in response to the interaction.,

258. (Amended) A method of facilitating ordering using an interactive television system including at least one client and at least one server, the method comprising:
providing, from the at least one server to the at least one client, data for use by a computing application, the computing application comprising executable code;
at the client, executing the computing application comprising executable code to cause display of interactive information;
using the interactive information to show or describe an offering to a television viewer enabling the viewer to select the offering by interacting with the client; and
in response to the viewer interaction, causing an order relating to the offering to be placed.

259. (Amended) A method of facilitating ordering an offering using an interactive television system, the method comprising:
receiving data to be used by a computing application comprising executable code;
executing the computing application comprising executable code to cause display of interactive information;

using the interactive information to perform at least one of showing an item to a television user and describing an item to a television user;
enabling the user to select the offering by way of an interaction; and
in response to the interaction, causing an order relating to the offering to be placed.

260. (Amended) A method comprising:

providing data to be used by a computing application comprising executable code to a client to cause display of interactive information, the client to use the interactive information to show or describe an offering to a television user and to enable the user to select the offering by interacting with the client and
in response to the interaction, receiving an order for the offering.

261. (Amended) An interactive television system comprising:

a server configured to provide data to clients, the data to be used by a computing application comprising executable code; and
a client configured to:
execute the computing application comprising executable code to cause display of interactive information,
use the interactive information to perform at least one of showing an offering to a television user and describing an offering to a television user,
enable the television user to select the offering by interacting with the client, and
in response to the interaction, cause an order for the offering to be placed.

262. (Amended) An interactive television system comprising:

a receiver configured to receive data to be used by a computing application comprising executable code; and
a processing unit configured to:
execute the computing application comprising executable code to cause display of interactive information,

using the interactive information to perform at least one of showing and describing an offering to a television user,

enable the television user to select the offering by way of an interaction, and
in response to the interaction, cause an order for the item to be placed.

263. (Amended) An interactive television system comprising:

a server configured to provide data to clients, the data to be used by a computing application comprising executable code to display interactive information

a client configured to:

receive the data from the server,

use the interactive information to perform at least one of showing and describing an offering to a television user, and

permit the television user to select the item by interacting with the client; and

a receiver configured to receive an order for the item in response to the television user interacting with the client.